

House Republican Press Release

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House Passes Drivers' License Renewal Bill



Witkos Supports Measure That Corrects Post-Suspension Violation Status

HARTFORD- Representative Kevin Witkos (R-Canton) today voted in favor of legislation before the state House of Representatives which provides that a person who operates a motor vehicle after a period of suspension has ended but before such person's license is restored commits the violation of failing to renew a license or operating without a license, not the offense of operating while under suspension. Representative Witkos co-sponsored the measure.

This bill establishes penalties for operating a motor vehicle without obtaining a reinstatement of a license after the suspension period has expired. Under current law, such violators are subject to the penalties for operating with a suspended license.

Provisions of the measure reduce the mandatory license suspension periods for a second offense from at least five to at least two years for certain motor vehicle offenses.

It imposes additional penalties for certain people convicted of operating a motor vehicle without first obtaining a license, violating a condition of a conditional license, or operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked license or registration, or with a refused license.

“An individual who has had their license suspended, and is subsequently stopped while driving after the suspension is up, but prior to reinstating their license should not face a charge of driving under suspension,” said Representative Witkos, who is also a police officer in the town of Canton. “This bill makes correct a problem with the current law which requires someone in such a circumstance to be charged as driving under suspension.”

Any person whose operator's license or right to operate a motor vehicle in this state has been suspended or revoked by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, must pay a restoration fee of \$125.

The bill now heads to the state Senate for action there.